

Well the summer holiday period is almost over. Families will be reunited after those left behind in the Kingdom suffered through the heat and humidity!

At this time of year we inevitably say farewell to some BBG members. It is no different this year with Russ Law and his wife departing the Kingdom for the UK in June. Russ had been headmaster at the Conti since 1993, although he first came to Saudi a couple of years earlier before departing and then realising what he was missing! The BBG wishes Russ and Nettie every success for the future.

Early summer was quite active with two functions of note. First we had our regular luncheon at the Meridian where guest speakers from the Offset Office and SAGIA gave a very interesting lecture on the prospects for doing business in the Kingdom and also in May the BBG hosted the Survivors Ball at the Consulate. This may be the last of the 'friendly' games with a number of the participants wishing to revert to a more 'competitive' formula familiar to previous participants. Our thanks go to Carma and the Consulate staff for again providing the premises and facilities for all to enjoy themselves.

I was privileged to attend a pre-BBG Intergulf meeting hosted by the Dubai BBG at the British Embassy in Dubai where an old BBG committee member greeted me at this reception. Bob Collier sends his greetings to all in Jeddah that may remember him. The formal annual meeting of the BBG groups is hoped to be held in Qatar in October.

BBG Secretary & Office Location

Working hours and contact numbers of the BBG office / secretary as follows:

Location:

Arabian Homes, Sierra Village,
Central Reception/Recreation centre

The office will be open at the following times:

Saturday 10:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Monday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

The contact numbers are as:

tel: (02) 662 4000 ext 2366
fax: (02) 6620090
e-mail: secretary@bbj-jed.org

I am pleased to announce that Anthony Richardson has been elected as a new BBG committee member and will take on the role of Business Interests Group secretary. I know you will join me in welcoming Anthony to the committee in his new role. Iain Mackie has had to resign from the committee, due to pressure of work. Again I know you will join me in thanking Iain for all his hard work and dedication during his time with the BBG Committee.

Graham Birkett has offered his services as Sports Coordinator for the 2005/2006 Sports Challenge and I thank him on behalf of the BBG for taking on this role, undertaken by Robin Rice until his departure from the Kingdom earlier this year.

To be expected, August has been a quiet month from a BBG social perspective but behind the scenes, your committee has still been active. The new BBG Directory has been published and has been posted out to all registered BBG members. I would like to congratulate all involved in the production of the directory this year and special thanks go to John White, who you all know and Andrew Mead the publisher.

Discussions have continued with the JCCI on developing our relationship. Interestingly, the recent discussions were conducted in the lounge of the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London with the JCCI's Chairman of International Development, whilst both of us were on business and vacation trips to London. Slow but good progress is being made

Coincidentally my trip to the UK coincided with the one week anniversary of the 7/7 terrorist attacks in London and the very sad occasion of the service of remembrance at King's Cross station. Having arrived in London, I found the traffic was really quite bad around this area but for the very best of reasons. Knowing now that the timing of my visit was just the "meat in the sandwich" of the second round of, very fortunately, unsuccessful terrorist attacks, I have to say that the people of London command a great sense of fortitude and resilience, from the taxi drivers I spoke to who recounted the impact on their lives, to family members caught up in the periphery of the attacks.

One has to commend the people of London for their continued resolve not to have these attacks affect their day to day lives and from my perspective, living in a region which has suffered through similar tragic events, it was good to see the British resolve standing as firm and upright as ever.

I look forward to seeing those of you remaining in Jeddah at some point during this month and welcoming those of you who 'escaped' to one or other of our functions soon afterwards.

With best regards

Notes from the BBG Jeddah



Dawood Taylor
Chairman, British
Business Group
Western Province